

Message Text

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TAGS:MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: PUBLIC RELATIONS
ASPECTS OF THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP).
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REFS: A) USNATO 2811 DTG 171601Z MAR 78;
B) USNATO 3061 DTG 231605Z MAR 78; C) STATE 91069
DTG 082051Z APR 78
1. WE CONCUR WITH VIEWS EXPRESSED IN REF B. US REPRESENTATIVE AT MODIO CONFERENCE LAST DECEMBER STRONGLY SUPPORTED LTDP INITIATIVES, REFERRED TO IN REF B, ON

GROUND THAT MEDIA AT MAY DPC AND ESPECIALLY AT MAY SUMMIT WILL DEMAND CONCISE, UNCLASSIFIED, UNDERSTANDABLE INFORMATION ON LTDP, ITS BACKGROUND AND ITS PURPOSE.

2. US VIEWS ADDITION TO REF C CONCERNING SUMMIT PREPARATIONS, AREA OF EMPHASIS, AND COMMUNIQUE CONTENT ARE IN PREPARATION AND EXPECTED TO BE DISPATCHED NEXT WEEK. ALTHOUGH SOME QUESTIONS OF EMPHASIS REMAIN TO BE SETTLED, WE WILL STAND READY TO PROVIDE US ASSISTANCE WITH THE PREPARATION OF BRIEFINGS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, ON WHAT LTDP IS, HOW IT WAS DEVELOPED AND WHY.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE SIMULTANEOUS MEETING OF THE NATO SUMMIT AND THE UN SSOD (REF A, PARA 2), WE THINK PUBLIC AFFAIRS EFFORTS ON LTDP SHOULD STRESS TWO THEMES: FIRST, LTDP IS FIRST AND FOREMOST A RESPONSE RPT RESPONSE TO THE CONTINUING BUILD-UP OF WARSAW PACT FORCES AND CAPABILITIES; AND SECOND, THAT NATO HAS TWO OBJECTIVES, DEFENSE AND DETENTE, WHICH ARE MUTUALLY SUPPORTING AND PROVIDE FOR THE PURSUIT OF ARMS CONTROL AS WELL AS MILITARY STRENGTH TO SAFEGUARD WESTERN SECURITY.

4. GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO USNATO 4077 IS UNDER PREPARATION.

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CHRISTOPHER

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